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The most interesting point in connection with the legal status of slavery is the gradual evolution of the rights of the negro in servitude which the author associates with the antislavery movement, although the coming of abolitionist influence led to stricter laws regarding slaves. The evidence here presented supports the statement which has usually been made that slavery was at its best in the border states.

The chief value of this study is that it furnishes additional proof to support conclusions previously held rather than that it contributes new conclusions. On the whole, the work is very well done, including proof reading, and there are no mistakes of any consequence.

WILSON P. SHORTRIDGE

The Hispanic nations of the new world. A chronicle of our southern neighbors. By William R. Shepherd. [The chronicles of America. Edited by Allen Johnson under the supervision of the committee on publications of the Yale university council] (New Haven: Yale university press, 1919. 251 p. \$3.50)

In this volume Professor Shepherd's intention was evidently to describe to the general reader the history of the nations of Hispanic America from the prerevolutionary epoch to the present day. Typographically it presents an admirable appearance. It contains maps of Hispanic America in 1783, 1828, and 1919, and it is illustrated by portraits of eight Hispanic-American leaders from Simón Bolívar to Porfirio Díaz.

The book begins with a description of social and political conditions in Latin America in the latter part of the nineteenth century. This is followed by an outline of the movements which ended in the Spanish-American revolution, as well as by an account of the separation of Brazil from Portugal. In a chapter concerning the age of the dictators the author discusses the epoch from 1830 to 1854, when dictators frequently appeared on the political stage in Spanish-America. He also describes the intervention of Spain in the Dominican republic and French intervention in Mexico. A chapter is devoted to the changes that took place in Hispanic America from 1876 to 1889. In other chapters some attention is given to the rôle which Hispanic-American nations have played in the international life of Europe and the United States. The longest chapter in the book is occupied by a brief consideration of recent happenings in the republics of South America. The book ends with a chapter about Pan-Americanism and the great war.

This volume contains a brief bibliography which was evidently designed for the general reader, for it is composed mostly of titles in English. Here and there, because of compression, or for other reasons, statements in the text occasionally lack exactness. As attention is necessarily focused upon political events, economic and social conditions in Hispanic

America are neglected. Still this handsome book furnishes in small compass a lucid account of the history of Hispanic America that should interest the average man.

WILLIAM SPENCE ROBERTSON

Spain's declining power in South America. 1730-1806. By Bernard Moses. (Berkeley: University of California press, 1919. xx, 440 p. \$4.00)

Professor Moses has added another volume to his list of books that deal with Hispanic-American history. In a fashion somewhat like that in which he treats the founding of Spanish settlements in America in his work entitled *The Spanish dependencies in South America* and in his volume entitled *The establishment of Spanish rule in America*, in the present volume he considers certain phases of the age when Spanish power and influence in America seemed to be waning. The volume under review has a very intimate relation to the author's volume entitled *South America on the eve of emancipation*. For many pages of *Spain's declining power in South America* are identical, or almost identical, with the pages which treat of the same or corresponding topics in the earlier volume. Roughly, about one quarter of the present volume has been republished from the earlier volume without any mention of that fact.

Most of the chapters in this book are concerned with some features of life in the Spanish dependencies in South America which illustrate the growing discontent of the colonists with the existing régime. Early in the book the author formulates a hypothesis with which not all students of Hispanic-American history will agree: namely, that the population of Spanish South America upon the eve of the revolutionary movement was composed, on the one hand, of a group of peninsular Spaniards and of office holders who cherished Spanish customs and traditions, and, on the other hand, of a faction composed of creoles, *mestizos*, and Indians who were antagonistic toward the rule of Spain in America. Then he makes a survey of certain conditions which existed in Spanish South America from 1730 to 1750. He discusses the futile attempt of Spain and Portugal to delimit their boundary in South America according to the treaty of 1750. Considerable space is appropriately given to the expulsion of the Jesuits from Spanish America in accordance with a decree issued by Charles III. Chapters 5 and 6, which deal respectively with the creation of the viceroyalty of La Plata and the revolt of Tupac Amaru, have in considerable part been taken from the author's volume on *South America on the eve of emancipation*. These accounts are followed by a description of the revolt of the *comuneros* in the viceroyalty of New Granada in 1781. The plot formed by two Frenchmen and a Chilean, which has been designated as the conspiracy of the three Antonios, against Spanish